

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00788 141609Z
ACTION OES-07

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8480

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0788

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TOCY, IC
SUBJECT: R/V ENDEAVOR RESEARCH CRUISE

REF: (A) STATE 31167; (B) STATE 18558; (C) STATE A-1211;
(D) 77 REYKJAVIK 0727; (E) REYKJAVIK 0152

1. PER REF (A), INFORMATION PROVIDED TO GOI IN LETTER
FEB. 21. IN MFA RESPONSE DATED JUNE 13, ICELANDIC AUTHORITIES
NOTED THAT APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT PROPOSED
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES HAD NOT BEEN MADE.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT ACCORDING TO ICELANDIC LAW
NO. 17 DATED APRIL 1, 1969, "ICELANDIC STATE EXERCISES (FULL
SOVEREIGNTY) OVER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ... (WHICH IS) CONSI-
DERED TO EXTEND AS FAR OUT FROM THE COAST OF ICELAND AS IT MAY BE
POSSIBLE TO EXPLOIT ITS RESOURCES." UNDER THIS DEFINITION,
ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, REYKJANES RIDGE OVER WHICH
RESEARCH VESSLE INTENDS TO OPERATE COMES UNDER SUCH
JURISDICTION. GOI THEREFORE MAINTAINS THAT ITS CONSENT
IS REQUIRED.

3. EMBASSY NOTES FROM REF (B) THAT REQUEST FOR PER-
MISSION BY UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND MIGHT BE CONTRARY
TO USG POLICY RE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WITHIN 200-MILE
ZONE, AND WE NOTED THAT, PER REF (A), DEPARTMENT HAS
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ALREADY ADVISED URI NOT TO REQUEST CLEARANCE.
HOWEVER, REF (C) (P. 15) STATES THAT "US HAS INDICATED A
WILLINGNESS IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS TO ACCEPT SOME FORM
OF COASTAL STATE CONSENT FOR RESEARCH WITHIN THE 200-MILE
ECONOMIC ZONE." EMBASSY IS THEREFORE UNCERTAIN WHETHER
REQUEST FOR PERMISSION IN THIS CASE WOULD COMPROMISE USG
NEGOTIATING POSITION. FYI: ICELANDIC NATIONAL RESEARCH

COUNCIL INFORMED EMBASSY THAT DR. SCHILLING HAD REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM GOI IN CONNECTION WITH PREVIOUS RESEARCH CRUISES. END FYI.

4. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT GOI CONSENT FOR CONDUCT OF RESEARCH MUST BE GIVEN PRIOR TO SHIP ARRIVING IN AREA. SINCE DR. SCHILLING PLANNING DEPART US ON JULY 8, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE SOONEST.

5. AS NOTED REFS (D) AND (E), ULTIMATE GOI AUTHORITY ON LOS MATTERS IS AMBASSADOR TO US HANS ANDERSEN. IF DEPARTMENT HAS NOT ALREADY CONSULTED WITH ANDERSEN RE GOI POSITION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ITS PERMISSION REQUIREMENTS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT SUCH CONSULTATION MIGHT BE USEFUL.

6. MFA LETTER OF JUNE 13 ALSO NOTED THAT ICELAND IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH EXPEDITION BUT APPRECIATES OFFER. CHRISTENSEN

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